



Hurricane Laura Management Report – August 27, 2020 #4

INCIDENT OVERVIEW

EPA is working with federal and state partners to respond to the impacts of Hurricane Laura. Hurricane Laura made landfall at the southwest Louisiana coast with maximum sustained winds at 150 miles per hour (mph) and transitioned north over Cameron Parish toward north central Louisiana. According to the National Hurricane Center and Central Pacific Hurricane Center (NHCCPHC), Hurricane Laura will downgrade to a Tropical Storm and transition across Arkansas to the northeast and become a Tropical Depression before heading east across Kentucky, West Virginia and Virginia. NHCCPHC reports surge and flood waters will not fully recede for several days, and flash flooding is forecasted along streams, urban areas, and roadways across Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS

- The EPA has dispatched technical assistance contractors and the ASPECT aircraft to a fire at the Biolab Facility in Lake Charles, LA. The facility chlorine pool products. The exact time the fire started, and cause is unknown. The Louisiana State Police (LSP) are on-scene to coordinate response actions. LSP reported the company hired U.S. Fire Pump to extinguish the fire and CTEH to do air monitoring. The LSP requested the local officials implement a shelter-in-place for Westlake. The EPA Team and the ASPECT are expected to arrive on-scene by 2:00 pm.
- On August 27, 2020, FEMA released an emergency declaration of assistance for all Arkansas counties.
- Two EPA Region 6 Lite Incident Management Teams (IMT) (Incident Commander, Operations, Planning, Logistics, Safety and emergency response) remain on standby and prepared to respond if requested in Texas and Louisiana, respectively.
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) reported on August 26, 2020, that 1 public water system is currently under a Boil Water Advisory as a precautionary measure due to the hurricane.
- Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) reported that 46 public water systems are inoperable throughout the state and 12 public water systems are currently under a Boil Water Advisory.
- TCEQ is bringing ambient air monitoring sites in the Houston area back online today and plans to start bringing ambient air monitors in the Beaumont area back on-line tomorrow 8/28/20. Specific monitors impacted can be found at TCEQ Air Quality website, www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/monops/air-mon.
- EPA has received 5 NRC reports related to Hurricane Laura. One report was on the

BioLab facility in West Lake, LA.

- The EPA 2020 Underground Storage Tank Flood Guide (Flood Guide) can be found on EPA public website at epa.gov/ust/underground-storage-tank-flood-guide. The guide is for state, local, and provides information about preparing for a flood, important actions after the disaster strikes as well as financial assistance.
- The Office of Public Affairs approved a web site for the public: <https://response.epa.gov/HurricaneLaura>. Public documents such as news releases, and other types, will be added.

COORDINATION WITH STATE AGENCIES

- EPA is participating in State of Louisiana twice daily coordination calls to maintain situational awareness of State preparedness activities.
- The EPA Region 6 participated in a Louisiana ESF-10 call with response partners including the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office (LOSCO), Louisiana State Police (LSP), and United States Coast Guard (USCG) August 25, 2020, to discuss each agency's current response posture.
- The TCEQ will begin post storm contacts and assessments with high risk and priority facilities in potentially impacted areas today.
- The Office of Public Affairs distributed two news releases to media, Environmental Justice Communities, and congressional members for Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas.

NATIONAL PRIORITY LIST SITES AND REMOVAL SITES

- On August 24, 2020, EPA began Phase 1 – Rapid Response Assessment for Superfund NPL Sites along the coasts of Texas and Louisiana. The Region 6 remedial project managers coordinated with the state agencies, tribal governments, site operators, site contractors, and potentially responsible parties to secure the sites against potential damage and releases to the extent practicable. As of noon August 27, 2020, assessments for 3 of the 28 Louisiana Superfund Sites and 19 of the 48 Texas Superfund Sites have been completed. To date, no completed assessment identified the need for further response action.
- Removal sites could be impacted by the storm:
 - American Creosote-DeRidder, an NPL site, is part of a Remedial NPL Site being assessed. Removal will conduct a visual assessment of the Site as soon as it is safe to do so.
 - Initial reports by the PRP group indicate the USOR Site in Pasadena, Texas was not impacted by Hurricane Laura.

State Superfund sites in the projected storm path were secured by TCEQ prior to landfall. The sites in the affected area will be assessed once re-entry is possible.

Nuclear Power Plants

The commercial nuclear power plants in Louisiana and Texas remain in operational status and with no reports of impact from the storm:

Plant	State	Status
River Bend	Louisiana	Operational
Waterford	Louisiana	Operational
Grand Gulf	Mississippi (across from LA)	Operational
Comanche Peak	Texas (50 mi SW of Ft Worth)	Operational
South Texas Project	Texas (Bay City, 50 mi SW of Houston)	Operational

AIR MONITORING

The Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer unit (TAGA) is scheduled to arrive in the Houston area on August 29, 2020 to assist the TCEQ with air monitoring in impacted communities.

FUEL WAIVERS

Affected State	Waiver Request	Date Received	Status
Texas	Request from Tx Oil & Gas Assoc.	8/26/20	Under Review

Louisiana has not submitted any requests for fuel waivers at this time.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE INCIDENT

National Hurricane Center Forecast Maps for Tropical Hurricane Laura:

